ALBERTA LIBRARY BOARD

EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT
1985/86

Alberta
CULTURE

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COVER PHOTO: *High River Centennial Library, a member of the Marigold Library System*

ALBERTA LIBRARY BOARD

Honourable Dennis Anderson
Minister of Culture
103 Legislature Building
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 2B6

Dear Mr. Anderson:

In accordance with the Libraries Act, I am pleased to present to you the Eighth Annual Report of the Alberta Library Board. The report covers the year ending March 31, 1986.

As you can see from the report, the Board has been involved in many varied activities evolving from our responsibilities under the Libraries Act and from the mission statement adopted last year by the Board. Perhaps most stimulating from the Board's point of view has been the opportunity to meet and talk with people from across the province who share the vision of making Alberta's public library service the best it can be.

We look forward to working with you in the year ahead to support and encourage our public libraries.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Dutton

Sue Dutton, Chair
Alberta Library Board
1985/86

16214 - 114 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5M 2Z5

Introduction to the Alberta Library Board

The Alberta Library Board is an advisory board to the Minister of Culture and has now completed its eighth year of operation. The Board derives its authority from the Libraries Act, Chapter L-12.1, 1983 of the Statutes of Alberta.

The Board's mission statement, approved by the Minister, is as follows:

"The primary aim of the Alberta Library Board is to advise the Minister of Culture on matters relating to the expansion, development, co-ordination and encouragement of libraries and library services in Alberta.

The Alberta Library Board promotes communication among groups in the library community. To support provincial library growth the Board will encourage library leadership and improve awareness of the public library's role in a democratic society."

The mandate of the Alberta Library Board includes:

— Advising the Minister of Culture as set out in Section 6 of the Libraries Act.

— Considering matters referred to it by the Minister.

— Receiving input from the general public and library-related organizations.

— Receiving input from library boards and trustees, library associations and the Library Services Branch.

— Providing mechanisms through which individuals and groups can discuss library development and inform the Board on these matters.

— Recommending to the Minister regarding study and research awards.

— Initiating research and making recommendations to the Minister on the results.

— Co-operating with library groups to encourage development.

— Making recommendations on the establishment and dissolution of community libraries.

Board members get down to business with the Minister of Culture in 1985, Mary LeMessurier.

Board Membership

Sue Dutton

Ed Halina

Daphne Betlamini

Robert Maskell

John Solodzuk

Pat Flette

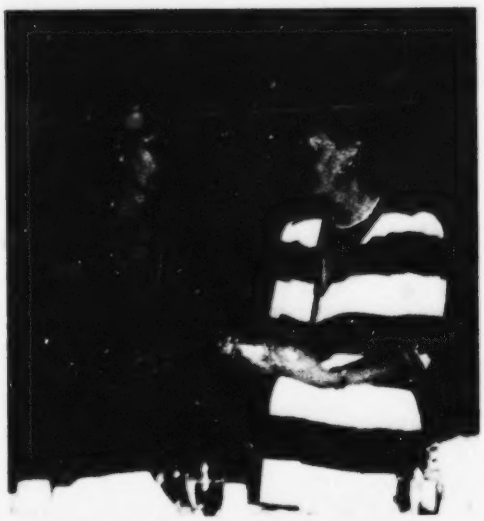
Marjorie Haugen

Members of the 1985/86 Alberta Library Board were Chairman Mrs. Sue Dutton, Calgary; Vice-Chairman Mr. Ed Halina, Olds; Mrs. Daphne Betlamini, Morinville; Mr. Robert Maskell, Edmonton; Mr. John Solodzuk, Two Hills; Mrs. Pat Flette, Grande Prairie; and Mrs. Marjorie Haugen, Cowley.

RETIRING MEMBERS

Mrs. Jean Lewis of the High Prairie served four years on the Board and was retiring chairman (1984/85). Mrs. Elaine Blakey also served four years, all of them as vice-chairman.

Newly appointed members were Mrs. Majorie Haugen, Mayor of the Village of Cowley since 1977 and acting chairman of the Pincher Creek Municipal Library Board and Mrs. Pat Flette, a member of the Grande Prairie Public Library Board and a past member of the executive of the Alberta Library Trustees Association.



The Minister of Culture, Mary LeMessurier, presented retiring board members Jean Lewis (shown above) and Elaine Blakey with commemorative plaques at the 1985 Alberta Library Conference in Jasper, April 1985.

Trustee Education

The Board continues to emphasize the value of continuing education of public library trustees.

The Alberta Library Board, the Library Association of Alberta, the Alberta Library Trustees Association, Alberta Culture Library Services, and Alberta Culture Field Services continued their joint efforts on an provincial ad hoc committee. The committee was formed to assist trustees in carrying out the responsibilities set out in the new Libraries Act and Regulation.

The committee issued the **Needs Assessment Handbook** and developed a needs assessment workshop to accompany the booklet. Training was provided to those in the Alberta library community responsible for delivering needs assessment workshops to trustees and librarians. These activities were designed to assist the libraries in complying with the needs assessment requirements, to be fulfilled by December 1987, as laid out in the Libraries Regulation.

The Board also strongly supports the adaptation of the Performing Arts Board Development program to library boards as this would provide valuable opportunities for trustee education.

Workshop in Library Leadership

The first National Workshop in Library Leadership (WILL), co-sponsored by the Canadian Library Trustees Association and the Canadian Association of Public Libraries, was held during the 1985 Canadian Library Association Annual Conference in Calgary, Alberta. More than 330 trustees and librarians registered for the full WILL program, and many others attended individual workshops.

Board members enjoy a Good "WILL" Dinner with other library trustees, June 15, 1985 in Calgary.

In addition to the financial support provided by the Board, all Alberta Library Board members attended the WILL program including the Good "WILL" Dinner. The Minister of Culture, the Honourable Mary J. LeMessurier also attended the dinner and spoke on the importance of the work of Canada's library trustees.

The variety of workshops offered at the WILL program and the high attendance by trustees from across Canada underscored the complex role of the public library trustee and the need for continuing trustee education.

The Minister of Culture, Mary LeMessurier, speaking at the Good "WILL" Dinner.

Rural Library Training Project

The Rural Library Training Project is an innovative program jointly funded by Alberta Advanced Education, Grant MacEwan Community College and the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology. This project has been set up to develop and deliver training to rural library staff throughout Alberta. The Alberta Library Board recommended that the Minister of Culture support the project's application for additional Alberta Advanced Education funding to complete its pilot project.

Libraries 2000 Committee

"Why Public Libraries?" by Malcolm Getz, Director of the Jean and Alexander Head Library, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee, was the first in a series of booklets commissioned by the Libraries 2000 follow-up committee and published by Alberta Culture Library Services. The booklets are designed to present information and stimulate discussion on issues of interest to the library community. Mr. Getz champions public libraries as an efficient way of collecting and preserving books and making them accessible to those who want them.

A second booklet entitled "Why Books?" by Professor Sam D. Neill of the School of Library and Information Science at the University of Western Ontario has also been published. Mr. Neill discusses the differences between information and knowledge, noting the ever increasing demand for information. He stresses, however, the traditionalist point of view that the role of the public library is, above all, that of the promoter of book reading in order to broaden and deepen the general cultural awareness of individuals.

The publication of these booklets was funded by the Alberta Library Board and they are available through Alberta Culture Library Services.

Library Systems Development

The Alberta Library Board continued its commitment to the concept of regional library systems throughout the province by encouraging the growth of the three existing library systems (Marigold, Parkland and Yellowhead) and actively supporting the system projects in the Peace Area, the Northeast and Shortgrass. (See page 10 for map of geographic areas).

Late in March, the Board was most encouraged to learn that the Peace Area had attained the support of over 50 per cent (almost 70,000) of area residents and would thus be applying for official status as a library system in 1986. The Peace will become geographically the largest of Alberta's library systems and the first established since 1981.

The Shortgrass and Northeast Steering Committees were also fully established as development projects during the past year. The Board recognizes and appreciates the dedication, determination and enthusiasm of all public library trustees who worked to make these systems possible.

The Board's work on behalf of systems development included attending meetings and conferences, responding to briefs, and reviewing system publications and documentation. Breaking with custom, the Board met outside the large urban centres, travelling to Peace River in September 1985 to meet with librarians, library and school trustees, and municipal councillors. Board members also attended a meeting with the Peace Steering Committee to discuss the committee's brief on the issues affecting the Peace Project.

As well, the Board travelled to St. Paul on March 21, 1986 to meet with the Northeast Library Project Executive to discuss a brief on the challenges facing systems development in the northeast. The following day the Board attended the Annual General Meeting of the Project where they met with councillors and representatives from library and school boards. At that meeting, Board members, Ed Halina and Daphne Betlamini answered questions based on their experience with library systems.

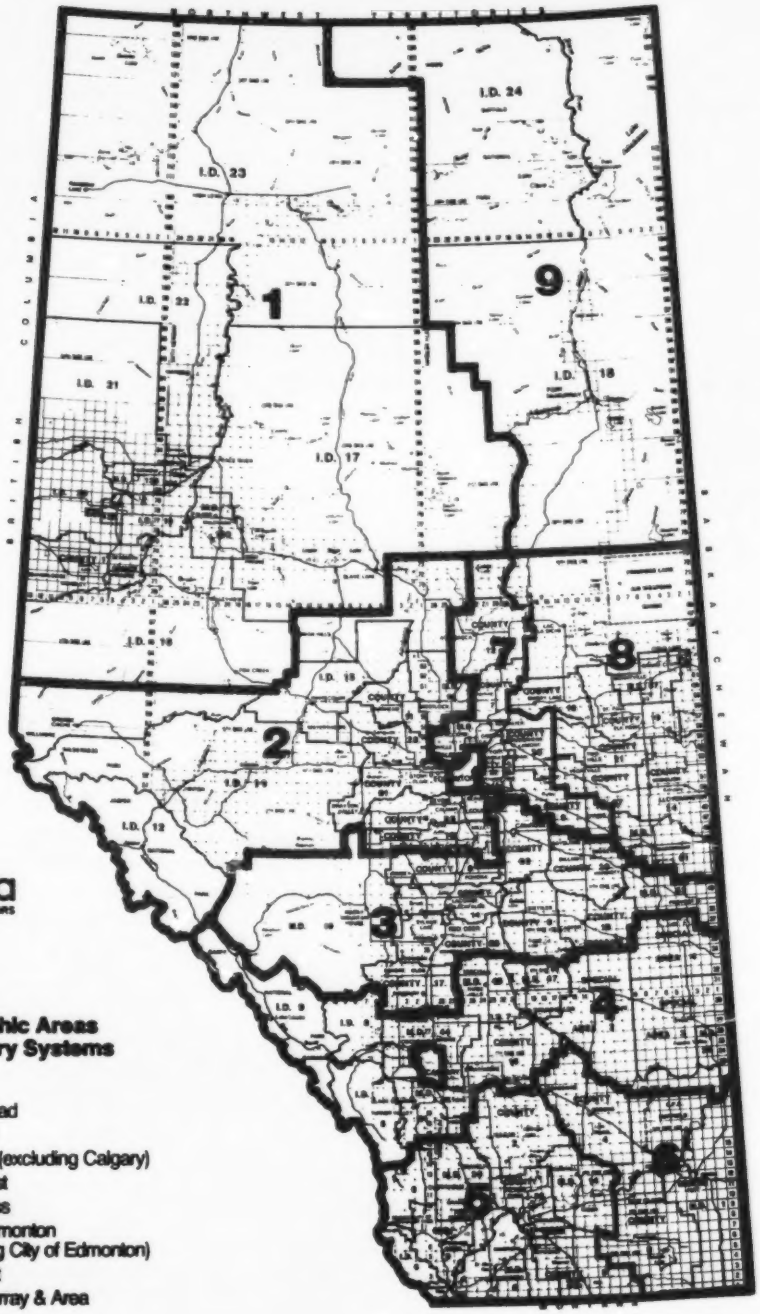
The Alberta Library Board travelled to St. Paul in March to meet with the Northeast Steering Committee.

In addition, Board member, Marjorie Haugen travelled to the Town of Bow Island on June 8, 1985 to attend a Shortgrass Project meeting and to get a first hand look at project activities in the Shortgrass area.

Board member Marjorie Haugen, Shortgrass Steering Committee Chairman John Vandenburg, and Sharon Ray at Shortgrass meeting, Bow Island, June 8, 1985.

The Board also reports the following developments during the past year:

- The Municipal District of Clearwater and the counties of Flagstaff and Camrose became members of the Parkland Regional Library System.
- The Village of Irricana officially joined the Marigold Library System.
- New Municipal Library Boards were formed in the counties of Forty Mile and Stettler and in the Villages of Irricana, Bawlf, Donnelly, and Holden.
- New Municipal Boards were formed from community boards in Alliance and Forestburg.
- 23 libraries completed new facilities or major renovations.



Alberta
MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

Geographic Areas for Library Systems

1. Peace
2. Yellowhead
3. Parkland
4. Marigold (excluding Calgary)
5. Southwest
6. Shortgrass
7. Metro Edmonton (excluding City of Edmonton)
8. Northeast
9. Ft. McMurray & Area

Extension Library Study

Board recommendations on the role of the University of Alberta Extension Library in providing a public library service were presented to the Minister for her consideration.

The Board received excellent co-operation and assistance from all participants in this study. Representatives from the University of Alberta, the Extension Library, the Directors of Marigold, Parkland, and Yellowhead Library Systems, Alberta Advanced Education, and Alberta Culture Library Services provided carefully thought out contributions.

Liaison with other Groups

The Board, with the Minister's encouragement, discussed with ACCESS various strategies for promoting libraries and linking library service to ACCESS programming. Co-operation was agreed to in the area of public service announcements and complementary reading lists. On behalf of the board, Mr. J. Forsyth secured copies of the ALTA and LRC public service announcements and these were used; ACCESS agreed to provide three public service announcements next year.

In November 1985, the Board decided to sponsor a pilot project aimed at producing a reading list based on chosen ACCESS programs to be aired in May and June of 1986. The effectiveness of the project will then be evaluated.

The Board agreed to hire a librarian to complete two reading lists, with titles being included on the basis of currency and availability for borrowing through interlibrary loan. ACCESS agreed to design the cover for the reading lists and assist with typesetting. The first list, to accompany the series "The Chinese" will be distributed in May; the second "Alberta Landscapes" will be used later in 1986.

LIRN

Library Information for the Northwest (LIRN), funded by the Fred Meyer Charitable Trust in the United States, is designed to improve access to information in the Pacific Northwest. Because the LIRN standardized collection assessment process allows each participating library to build a profile indicating collection strengths and weaknesses, the Board felt the project had great potential for planned collection development and resource sharing in Alberta.

The Board agreed to pay travel expenses for one representative each from a large public library, a library system, and a university library to attend a two-day LIRN Workshop in September 1985 in Helena, Montana. Those attending the workshop from Alberta were Vincent Richards, Director, Edmonton Public Library; Rowena Lunn, Co-ordinator of Library Services, Marigold Library System; and Sheila Latham, University of Lethbridge.

Each of these representatives reported back to the Board on the possible usefulness of the collection assessment process for libraries in Alberta. The Board has also asked the Library Association of Alberta to review the process.

Joint Meetings

As part of its mandate to promote communication in the library community the Board has met with many other library groups during the past year.

In November 1985 Board Chairman, Sue Dutton, and Vice-Chairman, Ed Halina, met with executive representatives from the Alberta Library Trustees Association, the Library Association of Alberta, and the Learning Resources Council to discuss matters of mutual interest and concern as well as possible future avenues of co-operation.

In January 1986 the Board arranged and attended a joint meeting with the Calgary and Edmonton Public Library Boards. The Board felt it important to discuss the concerns of these two major libraries, which hold a unique place in Alberta's network of libraries.

In order to be fully conversant with the goals and directions of the Library Services Branch the Board held two special meetings with the two program units. Olga Gil, assistant director of bibliographic services and her staff reviewed the resource sharing and direct service programs while Barbara Clubb, assistant director of development services, and her staff explained the systems development, training and education and consultation services of the unit.

Board members John Solodzuk and Ed Halina with Susan Fehr and Alan Rowe (Edmonton Public Library) at a joint meeting of the Alberta Library Board and the Calgary and Edmonton Public Library Boards in January.

Resource Sharing

A proposal for library resource sharing within Alberta, entitled **Networking in Alberta: Levels of Service Expectations,** was completed by Alberta Culture Library Services in consultation with the library community and presented to the Board for its study, consideration and recommendations. The document outlines the levels of performance expected from the various types of Alberta public libraries in terms of providing books and information to their patrons before calling on the resources of larger libraries.

After careful assessment the Board recommended to the Minister that the networking document be approved. The Minister accepted the Board's recommendation. The document is an important one as it is the basis for both library resource sharing and networking in the coming years.

Direct Services

TALKING BOOK SERVICES

At the present time 4,600 talking book titles are available to Albertans unable to read conventional print. During 1985, 139 libraries borrowed 11,561 books for 644 readers. Including users in Calgary and Edmonton, Alberta libraries are supplying talking books to 3,447 Albertans, an increase of 4% over 1984.

BOOKS IN LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH

In 1985, 4,558 new volumes were added to the multilingual collection, bringing the total collection to almost 47,000 volumes. Updated lists of holdings in all 30 languages were distributed. The 29,660 volumes circulated represented an increase of 15% over 1984.

Young talking book patrons at the Beaverlodge library.

Scholarship Awards

ALBERTA LIBRARY BURSARY

The Alberta Library Bursary of $4,000, given to a Library Science student, was awarded to Andrea Glover of Lethbridge. The Board selected Mrs. Glover from 13 applicants. After receiving her Bachelor of Arts and Science Degree from the University of Lethbridge, Mrs. Glover worked in the Lethbridge Community College Library. She began her first year in the Master of Library Science program at the University of Alberta in September 1985.

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

No applications were received for the 1986 Research Fellowship. As a result, the Board is seriously reconsidering its sponsorship of this award.

50 YEAR PLAQUES

At the annual meeting of the Northeast Library Project in St. Paul on March 22, 1986, Sue Dutton, Chairman of the Alberta Library Board, presented a commemorative plaque to Lillian Masse on behalf of St. Paul Public Library in recognition of its 50th anniversary of providing library service to the community.

ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

At the 17th Annual Alberta Achievement Awards presentation ceremony held on February 15, 1986 at the Westin Hotel in Calgary, Alberta Library Board Vice-Chairman, Ed Halina, was honoured in the Service Award Category for his long outstanding work on behalf of libraries and library systems in Alberta. Trustees E. Harold Dawe of Red Deer and Michael Ukrainetz of Westlock also received awards in the service category.

Board Chairman Sue Dutton presents a 50th anniversary plaque to St. Paul librarian Lillian Masse.

School/Public Library Co-operation

A committee established by the Board met twice in the past year to consider areas in which public and school libraries could work together to maximize resources, to improve delivery of services to both sets of users, and to make recommendations for policy development.

The committee, chaired by Marjorie Haugen of the Alberta Library Board, consists of Sue Dutton, Alberta Library Board; Duncan Rand, Library Association of Alberta; Mary Lou Rose, Alberta Library Trustees Association; Barry Eshpeter, Learning Resources Council; and Martin Adamson, Alberta Education. The committee decided to assess the present situation between public and school libraries in non-system areas, in cities, and in library systems.

Seven areas of possible co-operation were determined. These include Collection Development/Utilization, Education and Training, Communications, Finances, Administrative/Organizational Patterns, Technical Services, and Public Relations. Further meetings will be held to increase the scope of this assessment and to develop recommendations before a complete report is made to the Minister.

Conferences and Workshops

The Board actively participated in the Alberta Library Conference held at Jasper in April 1985. The Board sought and received input from library trustees and librarians at its informal 'round-table' discussions focusing on library successes, challenges, concerns and needs. The Board learned that the Alberta library community wanted to know more about the Board's work.

Board members Bob Maskell, Jean Lewis and Daphne Bellamini at the Alberta Library Conference in Jasper, April 1985.

As a follow-up to the Jasper discussions, the Board created a newsletter distributed to all public library boards in the province. The newsletter reviewed the questions raised at Jasper and offered responses to them. As a result of the discussions and newsletter, public library boards and librarians are more aware of the role of the Alberta Library Board. Encouraged by this, the Board planned to present Potpourri '86 at the 1986 Alberta Library Conference to celebrate successes achieved by libraries throughout the province.

Representatives of the Board also attended the Canadian Library Association Conference held in Calgary, the American Library Association Conference in Chicago and the Pacific Northwest Library Association Conference in Eugene, Oregon.

Board members Daphne Bellamini and Marjorie Haugen at the Canadian Library Association Conference held in June 1985 in Calgary.

Library Openings

The Board attended or sent greetings to the following official library openings: Banff, Coutts, Alexander Calhoun (Calgary), Fish Creek (Calgary), Two Hills, Lacombe, Elk Point, Slave Lake, Alix, Penhold, Vilna, Donnelly, Olds, and Onoway.

In Summary:

Continued growth in library circulation and in the use of all library services has marked the past year. The Board was particularly encouraged by the positive steps taken in provincial resource sharing and library systems development.

The Board would like to give special thanks to the Honourable Mary J. LeMessurier, Minister of Culture, for her strong, determined and skilled efforts on behalf of libraries and library development throughout the province. The Board would also like to thank Mr. Joe Forsyth, Branch Director, Mrs. Brenda Baron, Administrative Supervisor and Recording Secretary and the rest of the Alberta Culture Library Services staff for their excellent support.

Focusing on its goals and objectives during the past year allowed the Board to make the most effective use of its time and resources. The Board is proud of the role it has played in improving library services, looks forward to the challenges ahead, and remains optimistic about the future of Alberta's libraries.